



The First Presbyterian Church of Lenoir,
North Carolina was organized in 1852,
a member of the Concord Presbytery
and Synod of North Carolina.

The mission of the church has been
to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.
We believe the Christian may witness
for Christ
in numerous ways. Both in his manner
of living and in his words he gives testimony
to what he believes.

Jesus was approached by a lawyer
who asked him which commandment was the greatest.

This was his response:

“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all
your soul,
and with all your mind . . . and you shall love
your neighbor as yourself . . .”

As members of Christ’s church
today we seek a ministry which fulfills
that law. In worship, sharing, and study we seek
a closer relationship
to God.

In our ministry of service
we try to demonstrate what it means to be a
good neighbor.

This booklet illustrates some of the choices
the people of First Presbyterian Church have made
in their attempt to
witness for Christ.

It is our prayer that as you view these
opportunities you may be challenged to
become a part of our ministry.

Central to all the ministries of our church and perhaps the most important is the Sunday morning service of worship.



Our hope is that each service will provide
an atmosphere in which the worshiper
may feel himself close to
God and in which he will sense that he is a
part of a body of Christian people who care for him.

Our spacious and well-equipped education building is a reflection of the importance our people attach to Christian Education.



Sunday School each week offers activities for every age all the way from the crib nursery to adult classes.

Some classes follow the traditional lecture teaching pattern; others are highly experimental.



There is enough variety in method and subject matter to suit almost any taste.



Our future, the youth
of our church, is
important to us.

The Junior and Senior high aged youth of our church meet
weekly for supper and group activities.
They also share week-end retreats,
special trips and interesting projects
as they seek Christian growth and involvement.



Girl Scout Troop 191 meets
each week in our Education Building. They
have 18 very active girls who participate in various community projects.

Three choirs of dedicated and talented people
provide a ministry of music at our worship services.



The adult choir leads the congregational
singing and offers special music.



Children's and youth choirs
sing on the third Sunday of each month.



The three often combine at Christmas and Easter.

Women of the Church
visit Broughton Hospital.



Christmas gifts are sent to our missionaries
and to the children at Grandfather
Home in Banner Elk, N. C.



The Women of the Church have a concern which is expressed through service,
outreach, and fellowship.

Activities involve:

THE FAMILY as circles provide growth for each woman.

THE CONGREGATION as women visit shut-ins and prospective members.

THE COMMUNITY with projects such as visiting Broughton Hospital
and delivering meals to the elderly.

THE WORLD through support of our missionaries.



Among the most enjoyable activities in our church
are the monthly Family Night Suppers. The meal is
followed by a formal program, singing, games, or sometimes
just the chance to sit around and talk and
get better acquainted.



Each spring a number of our families trek to Camp Grier,
the Presbytery camp near Old Fort, for a weekend of
semi-roughing it in tent-like shelters called hogans.
Here in a mountain valley they worship, study the Bible,
hike, sing, play volleyball, fish, form new
friendships and nourish old ones.

The new member coffees are sponsored
by the Commitment Committee and help
to welcome new church members
and acquaint them with our church and our congregation.



"Where two or more are gathered . . ." — these are our Sharing Groups. Composed of people seeking Christian growth through prayer and Bible study, they are motivated by Christ's promise that shared prayers and experiences are important in becoming a mature and effective Christian.



The people at First Presbyterian Church like to reach out
and touch hands throughout the world.



The members of the
Drug Program Committee
collect sample drugs

from local doctors. These drugs are packed and sent to a drug store in Norfolk, Va., where sample drugs, from all over the U. S. are collected.

These drugs are available for our mission hospitals.

The World Mission Program of our church also shares in the support
of Miss Ann McGirt, missionary to Taiwan, and the Rev. and
Mrs. John J. Davis, missionaries to Zaire.

No member of our church will be in
the hospital long before being visited
by an Elder and a Deacon.
Officers visit on a weekly basis.



The Sunday morning worship service is
recorded and taken to any shut-ins who desire it.



The Nutrition Ministry for the elderly serves a daily hot meal to adults 60 years of age and older. Transportation is provided for the participants to the church where they have devotions, fellowship and a good meal. This service reaches over 120 of the elderly people in our community.



The Retired Service Volunteer Program is a service which provides a bridge between retired persons who have skills to offer and community service activities which have a need for volunteer help. RSVP workers interview retired persons to learn of their talents and place them where their talents can be used.



The Good News Day Care Center, which provides a ministry to children of working mothers, is supported by our church and the First United Methodist Church.



Care is provided for thirty pre-school children from 6:15 A. M. until 5:30 P. M. daily. This ministry is designed to serve families who would otherwise not be able to secure this service for their children.

Our church provides facilities for a unit of Project Headstart.

In our fellowship hall 60 pre-school children from low-income homes receive mental stimulation, social experiences, and a balanced meal each day, with the aim of helping prepare them for entrance into the public schools. In addition to a paid staff of five persons, members of our church volunteer their services to talk and play with the children or read to them.

The project always needs and welcomes such volunteer helpers.



The Foothills Mental Health Center, which serves a four-county area, has its offices in our facilities.

Our church provides almost the entire ground floor of the old Sunday School building and part of the basement under the sanctuary.

Thus our congregation has a very substantial role in this urgent ministry to people in our area. The magnitude of this need may be seen in the fact that the center employs a staff of 13 persons who at any one time are carrying a case-load of around 725 people from Caldwell County alone.



The Caldwell Community Development Corporation is our effort to make it possible for low-income families to purchase lots and build acceptable homes in an attractive area.

The need was first perceived within the Bi-Racial Group, a body of persons which meets monthly in our church to seek solutions to problems facing both races. With moral, financial, and staff support from our church a Federal grant was obtained, a corporation formed, and a name chosen for the development: "Town and Country Park." The ultimate goal is a planned community of 149 homes.



Parker T. Williamson, our minister, and his wife, Hannah, came to us in January, 1972. Parker received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Southwestern College, his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and his Masters degree in Sacred Theology from the divinity school of Yale University where his major work was in the field of Christian Ethics. He has served St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Tims Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lutz, Florida.

Parker believes that the Bible is God's Word. He believes that The Church must preach, teach and live that Word with a freshness and vitality which makes an impact upon the modern world.

Parker and Hannah have three children, Andrew, David, and Ellen.

Dick Neelly came to our church as associate minister in January, 1973 having finished his studies at Union Theological

Seminary in Richmond. Prior to studies at Union he had earned his Bachelor of Arts at the University

of Mississippi, 1966. Dick served

as a lieutenant in the U. S. Army, 1967-68.

Previous vocational experiences include work with Parke, Davis & Company as a sales representative, a summer pastorate of Calvary Presbyterian Church, a negro congregation in Greenville, Mississippi, and a hospital chaplaincy at the Medical College of Virginia.

Dick is married to the former Mary Susan Pope of Atlanta, Georgia. Sue is a registered nurse and enjoys working part-time at Caldwell Memorial Hospital. She actively participates in church and community affairs.

In his work with us Dick is primarily concerned with the educational and youth ministries of the church; however, his ministry includes involvement in all aspects of our congregational life.



SERVING GOD THROUGH SERVING PEOPLE

A worker on the production line may labor for years at one detailed task without ever seeing the finished product. In like manner, Christian people may gather in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, experience a service of worship, and go home without being aware of the total life and ministry of our congregation.

We believe that our worship and our work taken together, give expression to the Christian faith.

A witness of either one without the other would fail to tell the whole story.

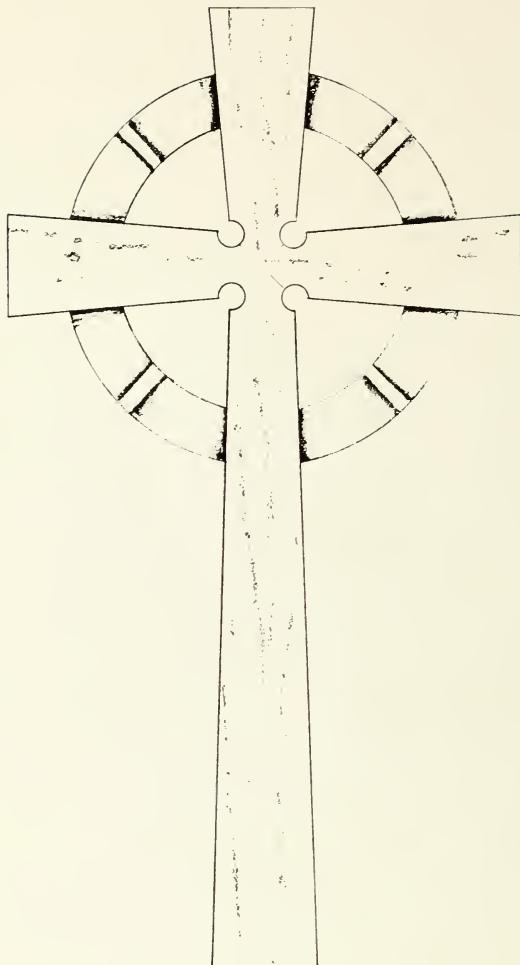
This booklet was prepared to offer a glimpse of the life which is lived by the First Presbyterian Church in Lenoir.

We hope that those readers who are our members might receive from these pages a stimulus to further involve themselves in the work of the church.

We hope that our readers who have not yet found a church home might seriously consider our invitation that they join us in the performance of this ministry.

Our opportunity today to give a meaningful witness to the love of Jesus Christ is unlimited. The call of the Master to His Church is clear:

"Let your light so shine among men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES